

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7917

BILL NUMBER: SB 456

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 11, 2005

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Horse promotion.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Weatherwax

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FIRST SPONSOR:

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 X DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: This bill establishes the Equine Promotion and Development Board to promote and assist the equine industry. The bill creates the Equine Promotion and Development Fund. It staggers the terms of the initial board members.

Effective Date: July 1, 2005.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *Per Diem and Travel Expenses for the Board.* The bill establishes the Equine Promotion and Development Board. The board consists of 12 members. Seven member are not state employees. Each member of the Board who is not a state employee is entitled to per diem and reimbursement for traveling expenses and other expenses actually incurred in connection with the member's duties. Each member of the Board who is a state employee is entitled to reimbursement for traveling expenses and other expenses incurred in connection with the member's duties. Expenses associated with travel for Board members is indeterminable and will depend on the distance traveled by members to meetings, the number of meetings, and associated expenses. The overall impact is not expected to exceed \$10,000 per year.

Duties of the Board. The Board must support the equine industry through marketing assistance, collecting, analyzing, and disseminating equine-related data, and promoting education and research concerning the equine industry. The board may also do the following:

- (1) Develop an equine industry directory.
- (2) Assist in relocation of out-of-state equine businesses.
- (3) Provide funding for the following:
 - (A) Educational programs.

- (B) Equine health and welfare.
- (C) Marketing campaigns.
- (D) Equine related disaster relief.
- (4) Enter into agreements and contracts.

The Office of the Commissioner of Agriculture must provide staff and administrative support for the Board. The increase in expenses that will be incurred by the Board is indeterminable. However, the bill establishes the Equine Promotion and Development Fund to finance the work of the Board.

Equine Promotion and Development Fund. The bill establishes the Equine Promotion and Development Fund. The fund is administered by the Commissioner of Agriculture. Expenses of administering the fund must be paid from money in the fund. There is annually appropriated to the Commissioner the entire amount of money in the fund for the use of the Commissioner.

Audit of Fund. The fund is subject to an annual audit by the State Board of Accounts (SBA). The SBA should be able to absorb any additional expenses associated with auditing the fund given its current staff and resources.

No State General Fund Appropriations. There are no appropriations from the state General Fund in the bill.

Explanation of State Revenues: *Equine Promotion and Development Fund.* The fund consists of General Assembly appropriations; and donations, grants, and money received from any other source. The Treasurer of State must invest money in the fund not currently needed to meet the obligations of the fund in the same manner as other public funds may be invested. Money in the fund at the end of a state fiscal year does not revert to the state General Fund. However, if the fund is abolished, money in the fund reverts to the state General Fund. The amount of revenue that will be generated for the fund and by the fund is indeterminable.

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Commissioner of Agriculture; Treasurer of State; State Board of Accounts.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources:

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